

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite Claim 9 as follows:

1 9.(amended) A power system (8) for providing substantially
2 continuous electric power to at least a critical load (14),
3 comprising:

4 a. a utility grid power source (10) providing
5 sufficient power to supply the critical load (14);

6 b. at least one fuel cell power plant (18)
7 operating substantially continuously for providing at
8 least sufficient power to supply the critical load
9 (14), the at least one fuel cell power plant (18)
10 including a power conditioning system (PCS) for
11 configuring operation of the respective fuel cell (18)
12 in a grid connected mode or in a grid independent mode
13 in response to mode control signals (D1/401', D2/402'),
14 the at least one fuel cell power plant (18) being
15 normally substantially continuously connected and
16 providing power to, the critical load (14);

17 c. a static switch (19) for selectively
18 connecting and disconnecting the grid power source (10)
19 to the at least one fuel cell power plant (18) and to
20 the critical load (14);

21 d. a switch controller (49, 45) for controlling
22 the state of the static switch (19) to connect the grid
23 power source (10) with the critical load (14) and the
24 at least one fuel cell power plant (18) during normal
25 operation of the grid power source (10) and to
26 disconnect, within a 4 millisecond interval, the grid
27 power source (10) from the critical load (14) and the

28 at least one fuel cell power plant (18) when the grid
29 power source deviates beyond a limit from normal; and
30 e. a site management controller (31) connected
31 between the switch controller (49, 45) and the power
32 conditioning system (PCS) and responsive to preliminary
33 mode signals (M1/401, M2/402) from the switch
34 controller (49, 45) for providing the mode control
35 signals (D1/401', D2/402') to the fuel cell power
36 conditioning system (PCS) to cause the at least one
37 fuel cell power plant (18) to rapidly transition
38 operation, within a 4 millisecond interval, between the
39 grid connected mode and the grid independent mode.

Please add the following new claims 10 and 11:

1 10. A power system (8) for providing substantially
2 continuous electric power to at least a critical load
3 (14), comprising:
4 a. a utility grid power source (10) providing
5 sufficient power to supply the critical load (14);
6 b. at least one fuel cell power plant (18)
7 operating substantially continuously for providing at
8 least sufficient power to supply the critical load
9 (14), the at least one fuel cell power plant (18)
10 including a power conditioning system (PCS) for
11 configuring operation of the respective fuel cell (18)
12 in a grid connected mode or in a grid independent mode
13 in response to mode control signals (D1/401', D2/402'),
14 the at least one fuel cell power plant (18) being
15 normally substantially continuously connected and
16 providing power to, the critical load (14);
17 c. a static switch (19) for selectively